

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-24, 25, 26 and 29-47 are pending in this application. Claims 1-23 and 41-47 were allowed. Claims 24-40 were rejected under U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly unpatentable over Patent Publication U.S. 2002/0084183 A1 ("Hanson"). These rejections are traversed for reasons including those set forth below and in prior amendments.

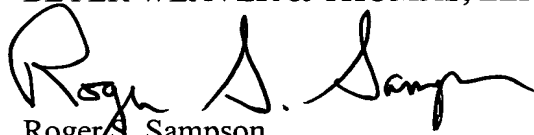
However, the Office Action noted that former claim 28 was allowable. (*Id.* at page 4, ¶ 6 and page 5, ¶ 2.) Claim 28 depended from former claim 27 and from claim 24 as previously presented. Accordingly, claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the gist of former claims 27 and 28. Claims 27 and 28 have been canceled, without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that claim 24 is allowable for reasons including those stated in the Office Action. Therefore, claims 25, 26 and 29-40, which depend from claim 24, are also allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the rejections of claims 24-40 have been overcome. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in this application are allowable. Accordingly, an early notification that the application is in condition for allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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